

## FAVOR Latvian Resource

### Cik pulkstenis? What's the time?

When you want to know what the time is in Latvian, you ask 'how many the clock' – **cik pulkstenis?** Expressing the answer is a little complicated, but if you have already learned to count in Latvian, you will find it easy to tell the time.

If you want to know 'at what time', you say **cikos?** Otherwise you use **cik:**

**Cik pulkstenis? – Pulkstenis ir divi.** It's two o'clock.

Fractions of the hour refer to the next hour following: **ceturksnis** 'one quarter'; **pus-** 'half'. **Ir pusdivi** will thus mean 'it's half past *one* (half of two)'. **Cikos?** At what time? **Ap pusdiviem.** 'At about half past one', (Notice that prepositions before plural noun phrases take the dative plural case, which ends in **-iem/ -ām**).

'At' a precise hour can be expressed by **pulksten** without an ending: **pulksten divos** 'at two o'clock'. **Cikos jūs ejat uz darbu?** At what time do you go to work? (**Pulksten**) **pusdeviņos.** At half past eight.

The preposition **pāri** (+ dative plural) is used to express the minutes 'past' the hour:

**Divdesmit trīs minūtes pāri diviem = 2.23**

**Ir sešas minūtes pāri četriem = It is 4.06.**

With '1' and '3' you say **pāri vieniem** and **pāri trijiem**. Likewise, **pulksten vienos** is 'at one o'clock', expressing 'one' in the plural.

Minutes 'to' the hour are expressed as the next hour 'without' (**bez** + dat. pl.) the number of minutes, like this:

**bez divdesmit četrām minūtēm pieci** '24 minutes to 5' = 4.36

**bez vienpadsmit minūtēm divpadsmit** '11 minutes to 12' = 11.49

Now you know how to tell the time in Latvian, try yourself out on these clock faces:

*[illustrations of clock faces showing 10.00, 8.30, 9.45, 6.16, 7.33]*